

Reconstruction.

We have, and shall continue to refrain from all political discussions, as not only useless, but probably hurtful. We fear the Southern people have already engaged too much in political affairs for their own good. We advised our people to send delegates to the Philadelphia Convention with many misgivings, which were made known through our columns, and only then, because we knew that it was the wish of the President and of the conservative people of the North that we should be represented in that assemblage. Our people really feel very little interest in politics, and we do not know that the press of the South, by constant discussions of the various questions which are dividing the present parties, although the Southern people are mostly concerned in their final issue, are conferring a benefit, but rather, by keeping up a useless excitement and distracting the attention of the people from more important matters, doing an actual injury. Our people know that whenever the North honestly desires reconstruction it will take place—wherever the Northern people are as well satisfied that is to their political, as it is to their material advantage for the Southern States to be restored to their rights under the Constitution, a plan founded upon justice and law will be adopted. But to bring about this desirable state of affairs we are helpless, except by continuing to perform our duty as citizens. We therefore, for these reasons, shall continue to allude to political matters only so far as is necessary to keep our readers informed of the news in political circles, and only enough for an epitome of the current history of the times.

It is known that previous to the adjournment of Congress for the holidays, Mr. Stevens, at the instance of several office-holders under the present State Government of the State, introduced a bill into that body for organizing a new government in "the district composing the former State of North Carolina." The bill was referred to the committee on Territories. We cannot tell why North Carolina was selected as the first target for Radical malice, unless it was because President Johnson began with this State in his policy of re-construction, and in destroying the progress made towards peace and reconciliation, it is desired to obliterate in succession and in regular order each step taken by the Executive.

Mr. Stevens, before the advent of these patriotic citizens at Washington, had already introduced a bill for the demolition of the Southern State governments, and fearful, should he wait to reach the North Carolina "Enabling Act," that some other person might have the honor of "re-constructing the insurgent States," has engrained in his former bill the main features of the North Carolina bill, which stands first on the calendar, and comes up for consideration as soon as Congress re-assembles.

We publish this bill in full, as it seems to form the Radical plank upon the subject of re-construction. It will be seen that the oath which Holden, Pool & Co. incorporated into the original to permit them to hold office, is extended, in the amended bill, to voters. We suppose, under its provisions, if Gov. Holden is to be the chief fugleman and interpreter for this State, all those who voted for Mr. Holden in 1864 for Governor, will be regarded as "unmistakably loyal," and entitled to all the privileges granted to the negroes. Of course, if the Southern States are re-admitted under such an act, it will be done by the power which the Government possesses, and the States will be united only in name. As we have before remarked, we do not believe that two-thirds of both Houses will give their support to such an outrage, which would be necessary to pass the bill over the veto of the President. Even in face of the late elections at the North, we do not think that the people of that section would sanction it. The bill is as follows:

A Bill to enable the States lately in rebellion to re-establish the Union.

Whereas, The eleven States, which lately formed the Government called the "Confederate States of America," have forfeited their rights under the Constitution, and can be reinstated in the same only through the action of Congress; therefore,

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the Congress shall have the power to admit, or to re-admit, or to receive back into the Union, except Tennessee, any form valid State Government in the following manner:

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That the State Governments now existing de facto, though illegally formed in the midst of martial law, and under the shadow of the sword, shall be treated as free republics, and shall be recognized as valid governments for municipal purposes until the same shall be duly altered, and their legislative and executive officers shall be re-instated in such.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That the States which were lately in rebellion, and have not been admitted to representation in Congress, shall be treated as States, and shall be entitled to the same number of members as the most numerous branch of the Legislature of said States. The Reconstruction Congress shall meet at the capital of said State on the first Monday of June of said year, at 12 o'clock noon, with the power to adjourn from time to time, and shall proceed to form a State Constitution, which shall be submitted to the people at such time as the Convention shall direct, and if ratified by a majority of the votes shall be declared the Constitution of the State. Congress shall elect a Commission for each of said States, to consist of three persons, who shall select or direct the mode of selecting the electors, which districts shall be the same as before the Rebellion, unless altered by said Commission. The officers shall consist of one judge and two inspectors of elections and two clerks. The said officers, together with the clerks, shall receive \$2 per day for the time actually employed. Each of the members of said Commission shall receive \$3,000 per annum, and their clerks \$2,000. The Commission shall procure all the necessary books, stationery and boxes, and to make all regulations to effect the objects of this act. The members of the United States and the military commander of the district shall furnish so much military aid as the said Commission shall deem necessary to protect the polls and keep the peace at each of the election districts. If, by any means, no election should be held in any of the States on the day herein fixed, then said election shall be held on the third Monday of May, 1867, in the manner herein prescribed. Returns of all such elections shall be made to the said Commission, whose certificates of election shall be prime facts evidence of the fact.

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That persons shall be entitled to vote at both of said elections shall be as follows: All male citizens above the age of 21 years, who have resided one year in said State and ten days within the election district.

Sec. 5. And be it further enacted, That the words "used in this act," shall be construed to mean all persons (except Indians not taxed) born in the United States, or duly naturalized. Any

male citizen above the age of 21 years shall be competent to be elected to act as delegate to said election.

Sec. 6. And be it further enacted, That all persons who, on the 4th day of March, 1864, were of legal age, who held or claimed the elective franchise under the government called the "Confederate States of America," or who voluntarily swore allegiance to said government, and are now residing in said States, shall be deemed to have forfeited their citizenship, and to have renounced allegiance to the United States, and shall not be entitled to exercise the elective franchise until five years after they shall have been readmitted to the United States, and have taken the oath of citizenship, and have renounced allegiance to all other governments or pretended governments; the said application to be read and taken in the same courts and by the same officers, and authorized to naturalize foreigners. Provided, however, that on taking the following oath the party, being otherwise qualified, shall be allowed to vote and hold office:

I, A. B., do solemnly swear, on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, that on the 4th day of March, 1864, and at all times thereafter, I would willingly have complied with the requirements of the Proclamation of the President of the United States, issued on the 8th day of December, 1863, had a safe opportunity of so doing been afforded me; that I have since then, and at all times thereafter, I was opposed to the continuance of the Rebellion, and to the establishment of a separate government for the Southern States, and voluntarily gave no aid and comfort thereto, but earnestly desired the success of the Union and the restoration of the Southern States to the government of the United States; and that I will henceforth faithfully support the Constitution of the United States and the Union of the States thereafter.

Sec. 7. And be it further enacted, That no Congress which denies to any citizen any rights, privileges or immunities which are granted to any other citizen in the State, on account of race or color, shall be admitted to representation in Congress. If the provisions of this section should ever be altered, repealed, amended, or modified, the said State shall become void and said State lose its right to be represented in Congress.

And be it further enacted, That whenever the foregoing conditions shall be complied with, the citizens of said State may be admitted to representation in Congress, and may be admitted to the rights, privileges and immunities of a State within the Union. No Senator or Representative shall be admitted into either House of Congress unless he shall have declared the State entitled thereto.

Apathy of the South.

Between the leisure afforded by the holidays and the dead-lock placed upon the mails by the inclemency of the weather, most of the Northern papers, which now begin to reach us, seem to have occupied the time discussing the temper of the Southern people, vibrating in opinion, even among the Radical organs, from extreme and dangerous defiance to utter and hopeless despondency. The latter character, however, being a new role given to the Southern people, we publish entire an article of the personal observations of a distinguished Federal officer in the course of an extended trip through the Southern States, in which, we confess, much accuracy of observation is mixed with great error in conclusions. This most probably resulted from an ignorance of Southern character, rather than any desire to misrepresent the feelings of our people.

Previous to the war, politics being as it were almost a part of the education of Southern youths, and Southern politicians occupying deservedly such a controlling position in the General Government, made the impression, and not without foundation, that our section of the United States furnished a greater number and able public men than the North. In all public assemblages, in gatherings in the tap rooms of the hotels, party politics were discussed—the political orator followed the tax-gatherer to the cross-roads meetings, and the people were made familiar with the great political questions from the lips of the best speakers and ablest men of the country. In this way almost every man, however limited might be his attainments in other matters, was pretty generally well informed on all political questions. The very great contrast which is presented by our people at the present time in this respect, is calculated to deceive the Northern sojourner, however close may have been his observations.

Possibly the politicians, the press and the Legislatures of the South do not express fully the desire for relief from political turmoil and excitement felt by the masses of our people. Exhausted, impoverished and helpless, their first political desire, next to a preservation of their honor, is repose. But that they care but little about the terms of reconstruction that may be offered them, or the political form that their Northern conquerors may impose upon them, is a total misconception of the feelings of our people, which even the apathy they evince will not justify. We honestly believe neither the politicians, the press nor the Legislatures express the strong determination of the people of the South not voluntarily, for any political rights now, or which may hereafter be denied, to accept the degrading terms already offered or proposed to be offered them. That we are unable to resist any outrage attempted to be perpetrated upon us is true, but that we will give up our sanction, never.

It may be true, indeed, that the Southern people would passively recognize the authority of an Emperor should Congress decree an entire change of government, and if this regal officer should pay respect to the laws of the country he would command as much confidence as the three hundred Emperors who now govern us with an iron rod without regard to law. If the absolute will of the majority are to govern, if a violent, resentful mob are to mould the political destinies of the South, it were possibly better that this authority was vested in one man.

This distinguishes our people, we think, mistook the aversion of the Southern people to further political activity on account of a profound conviction of its utility, from a desire to turn the best talents from public life to private business, and from the natural lassitude that follows over-exertion and utter exhaustion, for a leader apathy as to their future destiny. If he were in active service during the four years of war, he well knows the efforts made by the South, and can appreciate the necessity for repose. Says that sterling paper, the New York World, in speaking of the attempt made by the South in the war, and the desire of some to reflect upon our failure, "A more resolute putting forth of moral and physical energy has never been witnessed." The Greek contemporaries of Milvian, the Roman contemporaries of Scipio, the English contemporaries of Cromwell, did not exhibit higher integrity or a more heroic ardor. We of the North disregard our own valor when we disparage or belittle that of the South.

"Our endless muster-rolls, our colossal debt, our summoning the negroes to our aid, are a satire upon our manhood—less the enemy who so long withstood us—an enemy so inferior in numbers and every military resource—was endowed with great qualities." That such a people are pronounced willing to submit to any and every indignity that party violence and passion are ready to impose, is not more indicative of their helplessness than of the subversion of the principles of a free government.

Relief of the People.

The Virginia papers are urging upon the attention of the Legislature of that State, which re-assembled this week, after enjoying the Christmas holidays and attending to the business necessary upon the advent of the New Year, various subjects for the relief of the people of the Old Dominion. In some of the means proposed, the Legislature of North Carolina has anticipated, in part, at least, their neighbors of Virginia; in others, the questions exciting interest there and occupying the attention of their General Assembly, are also subjects of earnest legislation here, and will be the engrossing questions for the consideration of the General Assembly at its adjourned session.

It is urged, in Virginia, that the usury laws be repealed, not modified, as was done in this State, by the Legislature of 1865-66. The very great scarcity of money in that State is explained on account of the usury laws of the State and the heavy penalty for infringing them. Every business interest is languishing on account of the want of capital, and especially is this true of the agricultural interest. Certainly, if any property could command money, the security which farmers can give ought to do so. In North Carolina, the rate of interest has been changed from six to eight per cent. by agreement between the parties, with forfeiture out of the excess above six per cent. when larger interest is taken. In South Carolina, by a recent act of their Legislature, the usury laws have been repealed and interest left to be regulated by the contract of parties, its price to be determined by the equitable laws of trade. This, it is expected, will bring money into the State, and consequently stimulate every branch of industry. So far, the usury law has formed no part of the legislation of the present General Assembly, and so far as we know there has been no bill offered intending any modification or repeal of the law as it now stands.

A Homestead law is urged upon the consideration of the Legislature of Virginia as necessary for the relief of the people. All the new and many of the old States have reaped great advantages from a homestead exemption law, and if people ever required this protection in order to encourage them in building and improving homes, most certainly do the people of the Southern States need them. In the Legislature of North Carolina various bills have been proposed and some acted on adversely. Mr. Richardson, of Bladen, introduced a bill in the House of Commons exempting certain personal property, named therein, from execution and providing a homestead, which passed that body after much able discussion, and is at present before the Senate Judiciary committee. This bill we have given in full. Mr. Berry, the Senator from Orange county, has a homestead bill before the Senate, having passed through two readings, and received a consideration of several days' session on its third reading, and comes up first on the re-assembling of the Legislature, being the special order for the 22d of January, the day of meeting. We shall in a day or two give the leading features of this bill, in connection with that of Mr. Richardson's.

The "Stay Law" is also a matter of interest to be considered, in connection with the subject of the relief of the people, and we propose to give our readers, in a future number, a concise statement of the status of this question before the Legislature, as a bill has passed the House of Commons changing somewhat the ordinance of the Convention, and is now in the hands of the Judiciary committee of the Senate.

These subjects, with that of establishing schools for the benefit of poor children, embrace the great questions of legislation which will occupy the time of our General Assembly when it re-assembles, relating directly to the relief of the people, and with a desire to acquaint our readers with the various propositions, and in order that the positions taken by their immediate representatives upon their return to Raleigh may be understood, we shall, before that time, refer to all these matters in detail.

Attempt to Assassinate a Brigadier of the Freedmen's Bureau.

A private letter from Raleigh, N. C., gives the particulars of an attempt there on the 13th ult. to assassinate Brigadier General Bradley of the Freedmen's Bureau, by a man who openly proclaimed his intention in the different drinking saloons of the town, saying he had come to Raleigh for the purpose of killing him, and that he had been imprisoned on charge of being a spy, alleging that the parties to whom he alluded had treated him badly while a prisoner of war. The man called at the private residence of Gen. Bradley, and as he entered his room turned the key and seized Brady by the throat, drew a pistol, and avowed his purpose to murder him. A fearful struggle then ensued. Brady called for help, but his cries were unheard. Finally, the assassin said he perceived Brady was a Mason, and promised his intended victim if he released his hand, in which he held the pistol, he would make no further attempt on his life. At this moment the pistol dropped on the floor, and the man availing himself of the exhaustion of Brady, unlocked the door and escaped. The civil authorities of Raleigh, it is said, refused to take action in the matter, and the desperado is still at large.

By just such silly and ridiculous rumors as the above, is political capital manufactured against us at the North. There are men in the South, being in the pay of Northern editors and politicians, who not only incorrectly report every little disturbance, and give it a political and sectional appearance to our injury, but frequently, from the orderly conduct of our people, are forced to manufacture a story like the above, in order to keep the flame of prejudice alive. All fair-minded men should frown down such mean and contemptible efforts to array the people of one section against those of the other, and we hope Gen. Bomford, who is represented to us as a high-toned gentleman and gallant officer, will give the weight of his name to seal such a base calumny against the law-abiding people of Raleigh.

Important Decision of the Supreme Court.

We publish to-day a lengthy extract from the opinion of the Supreme Court of the United States in the case of Milligan vs. The Military Commission. A dissenting opinion was filed by Chief Justice Chase, with whom were three Justices, but upon the material point involved in the case, the Court was unanimous. The dissenting opinion was filed upon the power of Congress (which it never exercised, however, even in their opinion) to authorize the trial of civilians by Military Commissions. The opinion will only conform with what is known to every lawyer in this State, to be sound constitutional law, and is only important as the grounds and the conclusion of the highest legal tribunal in the country. The military commission, whose trials and executions of civilians, which has now been pronounced illegal and a disgrace to the government, would, under ordinary circumstances, never have been submitted to by the people of the United States, and which, had they not been checked by the wise and timely interference of the President and now entirely destroyed by the decision of the Supreme Court, might and probably would have progressed to an alarming degree. Every day, after the promulgation of this decision, that the confinement at the Forts of the prisoners sentenced by the military commission continues, is a sad evidence of the decadence of the powers of the judicial department of government and an alarming proof of the subservience of law to the unbridled will of the populace.

The Yacht Race.

The base-ball sensation, the amusements of the holidays, and the re-assembling of Congress, all pale before the new cause of excitement at the North. Mr. Bennett, Jr., a son of the proprietor of the New York Herald, has just defeated, with his yacht, *Henrietta*, two others, the *Fleetwing* and *Vesta*, in a race across the ocean, from New York harbor to Cowles. Young Bennett is consequently famous—has been admitted into the Royal presence and been smitten upon by the Queen, and *feared* by the nobility. Under the strong influence of his success and the champagne of "my lords," he has challenged the English and the rest of mankind for a race. At a dinner given by Lord Lennox, His Royal Highness, Prince Alfred, the Duke of Edinburgh, at the request of his mother, accepted the challenge of Bennett, and in August next they sail around the Isle of Wight, for a prize of one hundred pounds. The Duke will sail his own yacht, the *Viking*. We wish luck to the Yankee yacht.

It is sagely hinted that if Commodore McVicker, of the New York Yacht Club, will resign or die, no preference seems to be expressed, that it will not be hard to name his successor.

The Snow Storm.

We are beginning to receive accounts of the terrible snow storm, which raged over most of the States North of us and extending as far South as Georgia, on the 27th and 28th ult. The gale was of great fury, and was attended in some places with fatal results to life and property. The snow in some portions of the Northern States was of great depth, and the fury of the winds drifted it about fearfully. In the upper part of the State of New York, and as far South as Albany and Troy, the storm was the severest experienced for twenty years, the drifts on the railroads being higher than the locomotives. From New York City along the Hudson and up into Canada the fall of snow was the greatest, but the fury of the hurricane extended throughout the entire Northern States and as far West as St. Louis. The snow was only one inch deep at Boston—very little in Philadelphia and none in Washington, Louisville and St. Louis and westwardly. The mails have been greatly delayed by the storm.

The Bingham School.

We are under obligations to Col. Wm. Bingham, for a catalogue of the Bingham School from 1861 to 1866, inclusive. During the past year the number of students at this fine institution was 76, an evidence of merited popularity. We suppose that the number this year will be much increased, as the people are recovering more and more from the effects of the war. Our people are fully impressed with the importance of educating their children, and the meritorious Schools and Colleges at the South will always be well sustained.

We refer our readers to the advertisement in another column, as to the time for the opening of the Spring term of the Bingham School.

Labor in Edgewood.

We learn from a private letter from a friend, that negroes in Edgewood county refuse, in many instances, to work for \$15 per month and rations, under a manager, being desirous of farming on shares, where they can do so without *manager over them*. And on the other hand they prefer to work for wages without a manager than upon shares under one. The Nash farmers are offering \$12 per month, without success, and it is thought many of these laborers will drift into Edgewood.

SAVINGS BANK. Mr. P. W. Farming, Cashier of the Savings Bank of this city, advertises that a meeting of the Stockholders of that institution will be held at the office of Alfred Martin, Esq., on the 15th inst.

We trust that the Stockholders when they assemble will take into consideration the propriety of re-imbursing depositors who placed money in the coffers of the Bank, and that such measures will be adopted as will lead to this result. Not a few deposits formerly placed in the bank, were made in gold, for which the depositors have not been enabled to receive any benefit whatever. There are others who are actually in want, and to whom the refunding of their money would prove the means of succor from distress.

Destitute Travelers.

So many destitute travelers pass through Chattanooga, who spend the night huddled together promiscuously, without either bedding, fire or food, at the Union passenger depot, that the Nashville and Chattanooga railroad company proposes in conjunction with other roads, centering at that point to erect buildings, fit them up with all needed appendages, purchase food and have cooks to prepare meals and watchmen to keep up fires throughout the night, and in this way relieve to a considerable extent the suffering experienced by traveling destitutes.

From the Richmond Examiner, Jan. 2.

Relief for Jefferson Davis and Family: The annex correspondence, published in the Norfolk Virginian, we cheerfully copy, to the end that the sentiments therein expressed may set on foot a movement among our citizens which will result in the full attainment of the object sought:

"NATIONAL HOTEL.
"NONFOLK, December 24th, 1866.
"Mrs. A. P. Leonard: By the enclosed printed letter, taken from the Richmond Examiner, of the 22d inst., you will perceive that, some weeks ago, measures were commenced in Texas to raise, by a subscription, pecuniary aid for the family of that pure and noble man who now languishes in an American bastille, the 'vicious' subject for the South.

"The letter referred to and the proceedings inaugurated under it in Texas, I trust, be regarded as constituting sufficient apology (if apology be needed) for my asking the privilege of being permitted to co-operate with the Texans to the extent of the enclosed sum of money now presented as my contribution (for ten months in advance) on the basis proposed in the Texas letter. Knowing of no organization in this State for this object, and counting as a Virginian, I think it would be more appropriate (regarding you as Treasurer for Virginia) to place my offering in your hands, than to send it all the way to Texas; and I beg, therefore, that you will do me the honor to take charge of and apply it.

"I trust I saw the letter in the Examiner. I knew not that the situation of Mr. Davis' family called so impudently for aid from the Southern people! I have the honor to remain, madam,
"With much respect,
"Your obedient servant,
"CHARLES HARRIS."

[ANSWER.]

"NONFOLK, VIRGINIA, 24th Dec., 1866.
"CHARLES HARRIS, Esq.: I have the pleasure of acknowledging the receipt of your feeling letter of this morning, enclosing ten months' subscription to the National Hotel, for the relief of Mr. Davis, now incarcerated in a military prison.

"It will gratify me to hand the amount of your subscription to the Texas letter, and to have an opportunity of applying it toward the hands of your countrymen in Texas. I do not feel, 'Respectfully and truly yours,'
"C. LEONARD."

The letter referred to by Mr. Harris, is signed a "Southern Sister," and sets forth that a private letter from Mr. Davis, in reply to a friend in Texas, reveals the sad intelligence that her husband's finances are very limited. The correspondent then suggests as a means for the relief of the distinguished sufferers, that the ladies of every neighborhood contribute each not more than one dollar or less than twenty cents. The following extract will be read with interest:

"Mrs. Davis was answering a plain question her friend had asked her concerning her finances. In the strictest economy, wrote she, I see our way clear for the next three months—beyond that all is dark! Having to maintain two children, a daughter and a son, in Canada, and my husband and younger children in Texas, my expenses are necessarily and unavoidably great, in spite of the rigid economy I exercise. You are aware that we have not one dollar save that contributed by our friends. You have heard here, and also know that not one dish does upon Mr. Davis' table beyond the strictest prison fare that is not paid for out of our own purse. The papers assure the world that my husband is the richest man in Texas, but they do not tell that it is his own people who thus keep him from want."

Important (if true) from Washington.

Correspondence of the Baltimore Gazette.
WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—I have it upon unimpeachable authority that Senator Fessenden has, within a day or two, emphatically declared his opposition to all schemes having in view an attempted forcible disorganization of the present State Governments in the unrepresented States. The utmost extent to which he will go, when the adoption of the constitutional amendment shall have been shown to be impossible, will be to give his assent to an act of Congress proposing a plan to those States by which, if adopted by them, their interrupted relations to the Federal Government, should be re-established. It is understood that these views, which entirely discard the idea of territorializing those States, are concurred in by Senators Foster, Sherman, Cragin, Egg, and perhaps others.

In harmony with the above distinct fact, I mention the report that even the committee on Territories in the House will report a bill recognizing the validity of the Southern State Governments, but proposing a means (doubtless unacceptable) by which they may be restored to representation. The truth is that the whole present project of the radicals, as I have had occasion before to remark, can be summed up in a single word—delay. They have not put any of their threats of impeachment, upsetting State governments, and the like, into practice.

It is among the wonders of this "cultural age," that the philosophers, who rule the roost in the halls of legislation at this capital have so little foresight as not to have anticipated the obstructions their schemes are encountering at every turn. The utmost surprise is constantly expressed in Radical political circles that they are hemmed in by the guards which the framers of the Constitution provided expressly to prevent the very things they meditate.

They desire to concentrate in Congress the whole power of the Government. The first obstacle they perceived was the Executive. They were astounded that the ingenuity was vainly taxed to overcome the impediment, and they finally fell back upon mere abuse and threats of impeachment. Before finally resolving, however, upon this suicidal process, they encountered another branch of the Government—the Judiciary—and are again surprised and appalled at the obstacle and straightway puzzle their poor noddles to "invent" the ingenious contrivance by which the formidable lion in the path may be either "got around" or "scared off." At this very moment, while I am penning these lines, numberless coteries of Radical politicians throughout this metropolis are eagerly engaged in discussing a thousand different means by which the Judiciary may be brought by Congress. One would think, listening to these wisacres, that the great body of the present "governing class" never knew or had utterly forgotten so plain a truth as that the Executive and Judiciary are co-ordinate and independent departments of this Government, and that the President or the Judges of the Supreme Court have precisely as much authority to abolish Congress as Congress has to abolish either of them.

Pardoned Confederates.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—The list of the pardoned Confederates is completed and will be sent to the House Monday. It contains 295 names from the following States: Alabama, 33; Arkansas, 29; District of Columbia, 25; Florida, 8; Georgia, 13; Kentucky, 12; Louisiana, 21; Maryland, 17; Mississippi, 13; Missouri, 9; North Carolina, 17; South Carolina, 21; Tennessee, 15; Texas, 13; Virginia, 18; West Virginia, 9. This does not include the \$25,000 pardons.

Ben. Wade and the Men in Gray.

We learn that it is not true that Ben. Wade refused to march behind the colored men in gray, who composed the escort in New Orleans to the congressional railroad excursion party, unless they would severally take and subscribe to the iron-clad test in gray. It is not attempted to assassinate "old Uncle Ben," in this city, was one of the committee of arrangements to receive the Senator and his radical friends.

Washington Republican.

CHARLESTON, Dec. 31.—Sheppard has successfully accomplished the feat of walking 100 miles in succession, and has won the wager.

From the Salisbury Old North State.

Col. Hall's Speech.
We are indebted to Col. E. D. Hall for a copy of the Wilmington Journal containing his speech in the Senate on the resolutions affirming the loyalty of the people of North Carolina. We intended to publish a portion of this speech, but during our absence it has been mislaid so that we cannot find it.

Col. Hall frankly admits that he was an original secessionist and assumes his part of the responsibility for the war. We know that he was a gallant soldier in the Confederate army, and honestly and manfully stood by his principles to the last. When he surrendered and took the oath of amnesty he did so honestly and in good faith, and we doubt not he is as loyal to the government of the United States to-day as any man in the State. He is very severe upon that class of men who were at first loyal in their protestations of zeal for the Confederate cause, but afterwards abandoned it in the hour of its peril and now claim to have been all the time Union men and clamor for the proscription of a large number of the people of the State because of their participation in the rebellion. This class of men he denounces as "traitors to their own treason."

But there was another class of Union men for whom he entertained very different feelings. For those Union men who stood firmly by their principles during the war—who had been consistent—he entertained the highest respect. He admitted that during the war when passion was at a white heat full justice had not been done them, but since the war had closed, he said, "the people of the South and the people of the North, and the people of the State because of their participation in the rebellion. This class of men he denounces as 'traitors to their own treason.'"

As he sent us a copy of his speech, we cannot but regard it as an appeal made to ourselves as one of that class, and we have too much respect for Col. Hall not to respond. We believe, with Col. Hall, that the great body of the people of North Carolina are loyally disposed to the Government of the United States. We believe that the idea of a separate government has been abandoned by them forever. We believe that they regard the question of secession as settled finally and forever by a mode of decision from which there is no appeal.

We believe that they are now moved by the Federal Government, and that by testing them it will make them its friends. We believe that the heaviest blow which the Union men of this State have ever received has resulted from the action of Congress in not admitting the Southern States to representation in Congress, and that the re-organization of the State governments by President Johnson. If this had been done, the Union men—the true Union men—those who never faltered in their devotion to the government of their fathers would be held in much higher estimation in the State than they are at present. The reason is obvious. They could then have pointed to the liberality, magnanimity and beneficence of the government of their choice as a reproach to those who had endeavored to break it up. Instead of that, they are now the target of the arrows of opponents with being subjected by that government to the indignity of "taxation without representation," and are unable to make any satisfactory defence of it.

Yet we believe that most, if not all, of the Union men of this State have ever been loyal to the Government of the United States, and that they are now moved by the Federal Government, and that by testing them it will make them its friends. We believe that the heaviest blow which the Union men of this State have ever received has resulted from the action of Congress in not admitting the Southern States to representation in Congress, and that the re-organization of the State governments by President Johnson. If this had been done, the Union men—the true Union men—those who never faltered in their devotion to the government of their fathers would be held in much higher estimation in the State than they are at present. The reason is obvious. They could then have pointed to the liberality, magnanimity and beneficence of the government of their choice as a reproach to those who had endeavored to break it up. Instead of that, they are now the target of the arrows of opponents with being subjected by that government to the indignity of "taxation without representation," and are unable to make any satisfactory defence of it.

It is with much pleasure that we note the fact that almost every gallant soldier of the Confederacy, like Col. Hall, fully appreciates the Union men of this State, and that they are now moved by the Federal Government, and that by testing them it will make them its friends. We believe that the heaviest blow which the Union men of this State have ever received has resulted from the action of Congress in not admitting the Southern States to representation in Congress, and that the re-organization of the State governments by President Johnson. If this had been done, the Union men—the true Union men—those who never faltered in their devotion to the government of their fathers would be held in much higher estimation in the State than they are at present. The reason is obvious. They could then have pointed to the liberality, magnanimity and beneficence of the government of their choice as a reproach to those who had endeavored to break it up. Instead of that, they are now the target of the arrows of opponents with being subjected by that government to the indignity of "taxation without representation," and are unable to make any satisfactory defence of it.

We give below, as a matter of public interest, the state of the vote upon the constitutional changes proposed for adoption at the last General Conference, viz: the change of name to the "Episcopal Methodist Church," and the introduction of lay delegates into the legislative assembly of the Church. It will be seen that the sentiment in favor of these changes is immensely preponderant, but as the General Conference required a majority vote of three-fourths, it may yet be lost:

Change of Name. Lay Representation.

| | Ayes. | Noes. | Abstentions. |
|------------------|-------|-------|--------------|
| Kentucky | 49 | 7 | 47 |
| Louisiana | 35 | 31 | 40 |
| Missouri | 28 | 30 | 40 |
| St. Louis | 28 | 12 | 19 |
| Arkansas | 28 | 12 | 40 |
| Little Rock | 24 | 19 | 36 |
| Indian Mission | 7 | 00 | 7 |
| Texas | 27 | 00 | 25 |
| West Texas | 27 | 00 | 23 |
| East Texas | 36 | 6 | 29 |
| Northeast Texas | 24 | 00 | 26 |
| Pacific | 27 | 8 | 30 |
| Virginia | 64 | 65 | 76 |
| Western Virginia | 7 | 7 | 21 |
| North Carol | 46 | 3 | 43 |
| Holston | 51 | 2 | 48 |
| Tennessee | 52 | 48 | 28 |
| Memphis | 78 | 43 | 65 |
| Mississippi | 35 | 52 | 50 |
| Mobile | 31 | 36 | 38 |
| Georgia | 109 | 3 | 117 |
| Montgomery | 34 | 12 | 61 |
| Florida | 2 | 2 | 40 |
| South Carolina | 101 | 5 | 102 |
| | 1037 | 330 | 1068 |
| | 390 | | 346 |
| | 41427 | | 41414 |